

SB 1106: Establishment of the Department of Early  
Education and Child Development Act

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rose Clark, Family Child Care Provider

March 7, 2011

My name is Rose Clark, and I run a home-based child care in West Hartford. I've been a licensed provider for 30 years, and before that I was a public school art teacher, with a master's degree.

The children I care for come from all types of homes--from upper income areas...to children from foster homes who had previously been abused.

All of them benefit from the excellent care I give and the extensive training and education I have gone through in order to be the best provider I can possibly be.

I'm proud that every single child I care for leaves my day care prepared for school.

In the last year, I've talked to many other providers in this area about the challenges we face, and I'm here today on their behalf to say that we need a voice through our union SEIU to help improve Connecticut's child care system.

We've all had problems with the Care4Kids application and the reimbursement system. Approvals are slow, and payments can take six weeks. These delays can mean that some providers struggle to make ends meet—or don't get paid at all.

If we were to be granted a voice through this bill—Senate Bill 1106—not only could we fix problems with the payment system, but the state would benefit from the expertise that providers like me could bring.

We would like to partner with Care4Kids to improve the system so that child care providers can stay in business and continue to provide the small group setting that help small children thrive.

This bill would go a long way toward improving child care and early education in our state—which would in turn lead to better long-term growth and cost saving in the decades to come.

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